

time and attention to those which are uniformly most profitable.

Farmers generally are too negligent in this matter. In no business, perhaps, does eminent success depend more upon the judicious application of the lessons to be derived from careful observations of the past, than in farming; while the farmers as a class are prone to let many of these most important matters pass unrecorded and unnoted. How many of our common farmers are able to tell the actual cost of each of the various crops they have cultivated for the past five or ten years? and the average yield of each per acre? And yet the knowledge of these and kindred matters relating to those very crops must be valuable to a sensible and reflective farmer, and would, doubtless, have a favorable and important influence upon his future agricultural operations.

Perhaps the necessary farm record may be most conveniently kept in the form of a diary. In this every important operation upon the farm should be noted—the state of the weather; amount and kind of labor performed each day; the method pursued in the cultivation and manuring of every field; amount of seed sown, quantity of hay, grain, &c., harvested from each field; income of the farm; expenditures; increase of stock, &c., &c. It should furnish a history of business transactions on the farm sufficiently minute for all practical purposes, in the order of time in which they occur.

In this manner at the end of the year, you have a record of all the expenditures and all the labor performed on your farm for the year. You have also an account of the income, and the yield of every crop you have cultivated. You may then arrange these several items in a more convenient form for future reference, so that you may see at a glance the actual cost of each crop; the amount of labor expended in preparing the land, sowing or planting, cultivating, harvesting, and securing it; also the yield and market value of the same at the time it was disposed of. In this way you may go through with every thing to which you have given any portion of your time and attention. You may thus see for yourself what has been most profitable, and what has been unprofitable; and also what has served to bring about these results.

The great importance of keeping an accurate farm record is apparent. It would require only a few moments time each day to do it; and the cost of a suitable book is but trifling, while the benefits to be derived from such a record are various and almost incalculable.—[Me. Far.

LEAVES FOR LITTER AND MANURE.—Leaves of trees furnishes the best of bedding for pigs. A good thickness of them enables the animal to cover himself completely and he sleeps warm and comfortable under almost any degree of cold

They make a good and convenient litter for horses or cattle—readily absorbing the liquid, and at the same time affording a soft and easy resting place for the stock. A covering of them affords an excellent winter protection for plants, and they also make a valuable compost for plants that will not bear the salts of animal manures. A mould prepared by mixing old grass turf and leaves, well rotted, is known to be excellent for many gardening purposes.

CULTIVATION OF THE STRAWBERRY.

The following interesting description of the mode and expense of cultivating strawberries must prove very interesting to most of our readers, as the cultivation of that delicious fruit has of late attracted a good deal of attention, by many of our best farmers and gardeners:—

The result of the following experiment, the first of the kind in that section of the country, was given at the request of the Editor of the *New York Farmer and Mechanic*, by Mr. C. H. Starr, of Groton, Connecticut, who has been engaged some four years in his experiments, and has succeeded in producing some strawberries of unsurpassable fineness.

The varieties raised were Hovey's Seedlings, with a few English plants, as fruitlets, and were set in April, in rows three feet apart.

The soil was a moist loam, half an acre in extent, well pulverized by ploughing, and manured at the rate of 20 cords to an acre of seaweed and fish. The first year beets, or other vegetables, might be grown, without detriment to the fruit.

The product from the half acre under cultivation, last season, was 2,000 quarts of fruit, some of which measured $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference.

Estimated Expense of Culture per Acre.

20 cords of manure, or its equivalent,	\$40
Expense of plants (10,000, at \$2)	20
Total expense of labour the first season,	100
Total expense incurred the first year	\$160
Total expense (labour only) 2nd year,	160
" " 3rd year,	160
" " 4th year,	160
	\$640

Value of the Crop.

50 bushels of beets the first year,	\$20
4,000 quarts of strawberries the 2nd year,	
4,000 " " the third year,	
4,000 " " the fourth year,	
12,000 quarts of strawberries in all, at 12 cents a quart,	1,440
Total value of the crop for four years	\$1,460
Leaving a net gain for four years of	\$820
Or for each year, of	\$205